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"One Big Union."

THE VICTORIAN LABOR UNION DISSECTED AND EXPOSED.

By J. A. DAWSON.

Melbourne, 17th June.

Mr. B. A. Mulloogue, of the Builders' Laborers' Union, last night explained the scheme of One Big Union as put forth by a conference held at the Melbourne Trades Hall. Two schemes had been put forward, the one, Mulloogue's, "The Victorian Labor Union," and the other, Watson's (Painters' and Decorators' Union), "The Victorian Labor Federation." This latter scheme, Ben Mulloogue stridently and condemned as "a mere conglomeration of crafts." I challenge Mr. Mulloogue to prove his own scheme of One Big Union, the "Victoria Labor Union" to be any other also than "a mere conglomeration of crafts." He also condemned the A.W.U. scheme because "based on a territorial basis." Yet his own pet scheme only proposes to embrace Victoria.

The first object of Mulloogue's scheme is "To organise the wage workers of Victoria on an Industrial Union basis," and to do so, it is proposed to have twelve departments. No notice of industry has been taken in drawing up these departments whatsoever. The proposed grouping of unions under this scheme is "a mere conglomeration of crafts." It is proposed to allot such unions as the Carters and Drivers to the Transportation Department; the Federal Clerks to the Public Service and the Certificated Engine Drivers to the "Miscellaneous" Department. As Fellow Worker Wall, of the One Big Union Propaganda League, said, these unions must be ripped from top to bottom and the workers in each union (which at present include ones in as many as six different industries) allotted to their own industry; as for instance the drivers of vehicles who only handle food products should be in the Food Production Industry, and not in Transportation. Clerks should be allotted to the industry in which they work, and not be jumbled up together with the Firemen's Union, Hospital Attendants, and the Police Association (!!!). The Letter Carriers, Postal Electricians, and Telephone and Telegraph Unions should be in the Transportation and Communication Department, not in Public Service along with Municipal Employees.

Mr. Mulloogue admitted that this was an objection they had met with, yet on the other hand, a union, such as the Certificated Engine Drivers, objected to having their members dispersed into separate unions of industry, so they arranged in the scheme to take them into the Miscellaneous Department (along with the Hairdressers' and Undertakers' !!!) "hoping that such questions would right themselves in time!"

This is how they met difficulties—by side stepping and trusting that they will "right themselves." On being asked "whether it was his policy not to antagonise craft ideas," Mulloogue said that for the bringing about of his scheme he was not afraid of antagonising anybody, but he thought it could be arranged without undue friction. Will Smith, who was chairman at the meeting, put up a good case for Industrial Unionism as against Craft Unionism, and clearly enough showed that craft ideas must go. Brother Smith, when speaking in support of Mr. Mulloogue, made the scheme of the "Victorian Labor Union" look something like an Industrial Union, that is, because Will Smith knows the W.I.U. plan. But he put more into his advocacy than is in the scheme itself. I have the pamphlet of Mulloogue's scheme before me, and it is "a mere conglomeration of crafts."

And how Mr. Mulloogue intends to get along without undue friction was clearly

shown in the manner in which he answered questions. One man got up and wanted to know whether his scheme provided to take in all workers such as peanut sellers, etc. Mr. Mulloogue warmed up, and enthusiastically declared that his scheme provided for all workers, even a peanut vendor. All workers, no matter what their occupation, even the police, were provided for in his scheme. Now a peanut vendor is mostly in business for himself, and hence is not a wage worker any more than a one-man grocery store or a man like "Chummy" Fleming with a little boot business. These men work, certainly, but they are not wage workers. Also no self-respecting class-conscious Labor Union could admit a policeman to membership.

Another crank, with the idea of National Banks as a means of buying out industry, asked a question on his pet banking scheme, and Mr. Mulloogue answered and said his scheme provided for a Union Bank. This bank is not mentioned in his pamphlet. But, anyway, what is the bank to be for? Is it to arrange for the financing of taking over industries? Does that mean a deferred scheme of buying out the capitalists? It smacks very much of such a cranky idea. Mr. Mulloogue stands for the abolition of the wage system, but it cannot be abolished in any other way than the revolutionary aim of taking over and holding them for the workers. This does not mean compensation. It means the abolition also of classes by abolishing the capitalist class.

Mr. Mulloogue is not in a hurry. He said it was not intended to alter the unions overnight. He did not believe the system of wage slavery could be altered in 10 minutes, or a year, nor in ten, twenty, or a hundred years. Mr. Mulloogue, history is going to overtake you—you are too slow.

Great changes are impending; even Will Smith now admits that the Russian Revolution is on Industrial lines, and is an attempt to build the Industrial Democracy on a sound basis.

If the workers are going to change their conditions, they must go about it in a scientific and efficient manner. All admit that craft forms of organisation are now a hindrance and an impediment to Labor. But Industrial Unions must be on lines of industry, no other scheme will do.

The Workers' International Industrial Union is a perfect scheme, inasmuch as it provides for the development of industry, and also provides for the workers organising on lines that will enable them to take over, own, and manage industry themselves. No other scheme yet put forth provides for this absolutely necessary form of organisation.

It is because the "borers from within" present craft unions are willing to evade friction and compromise on industrial principles that an outside organisation has been forced into existence in Australia, America and Great Britain. This organisation is the Workers' International Industrial Union, and we recognise that craft prejudice must be broken down. We recognise that before a real strong industrial union can function the workers must cease to regard themselves as craftsmen, as engineers, or as painters. They must regard themselves as workers, and co-operate with fellow workers in the same industry, be they skilled or mere laborers. Craft ideas must go, and the W.I.U. by the sheer logic and strength of its plan, by its revolutionary class consciousness will ultimately succeed in

Russian Workers as Industrial Managers.

(Translated by Peter Simonoff).

It will be of interest to know how the Russian workingmen are becoming industrial and economic managers; how they are making the bosses useful, and also how modest they are about it.

In a Russian workingman's paper, dated March 26th, is published a very modest report—but this report says much.

"The control of industry by the working-class is developing a spirit of self-reliance and confidence in the workers themselves. Although without experience and partly without experts because of the aloofness of the 'intelligentsia' from the working-class, the workers were obliged to elect members for the controlling Commissions, i.e., business management, from amongst themselves and under the workers' control business is now being developed.

"Being a member of such a commission for three textile factories, from January 25th of this year, I should like to explain how and what we have accomplished.

"One representative was elected from every 250 workmen, making 23 members all told from the 6,000 workers in the three factories.

"After electing a presiding officer, the Commission was divided into four sections, viz.: Finance, Production, Cereals, and Fuel, and began its work sometimes together and sometimes separately, deciding to ascertain first the cash in hand, the bank accounts, stock of finished fabrics, and fabrics in process of production; also cereals and fuel.

"I could not say that the directorate of the factories, Mr. Sanders and others (who had departed to England) were giving their assistance and sympathy. Most assuredly no! But who could expect anything else. And so we met a strong rebuke, and our future incompetency was loudly predicted. Because of that they referred to us as mere stock-takers and compilers of statistics. When the Soviet's decree was shown, pointing out that in case of sabotage the property may be socialised, Mr. Sanders gracefully surrendered his strongholds, and our stipulation that we would not allow the spending of one Kopek without our sanction brought matters to a definite conclusion.

"Now no accounts or documents are coming in or going out without our official endorsement.

The sale of our textiles is conducted entirely through the State Distributing Department, from whom we are paid 25 per cent, on delivery, but on account of financial shortage it should be increased to 40 or 50 per cent. The Directory refused at first to deliver our fabrics to the State Distributing Department at 25 per cent (payment on delivery), making a demand for 100 per cent, cash. But the Commissioner, on finding that the delivery of our fabrics would bring us bread from the country, and also that the direct exchange of the goods will limit more and more the amount of circulating money,

driving craft prejudices and ideas of craft superiority to oblivion. In this they will work with the very forces of industrial development themselves, which are fast destroying the lines of craft demarcation.

Workers! rouse yourselves and learn what real Industrial Unionism is, and you will recognise Mulloogue's scheme, as well as Watson's as shams and delusions. As inferior and inefficient imitations of industrialism. Taking the schemes as a whole there is very, very little of Industrial Unionism about them. To use Mulloogue's own words once more, they are "mere conglomerations of crafts."

Civilisation.

A Day Dream.

By E. H. SINCLAIR.

It is a delightful day in May. The sun is shining clear and bright; birds are singing sweetly in the woods.

From the harbour is wafted the sweet music of wavelets, dancing in the gentle breeze. In the distance the hills may be seen, the gentle slopes carpeted with wild flowers.

All nature seems to be in harmony, not one discordant note rises to destroy the symphony. But despite the glorious picture before me, my mind is filled with sorrow. For another picture fills my mental vision.

I see the storm-tossed fields of battle. I see the worn and weary faces of million men, grappling at each other's throats. I see their limbs scattered over the broad acres of Europe. Their entrails dragged from them, and hung to the four winds of the earth. How their cries and groans amid the roar and rattle of the cannon.

Homes are being razed to the ground, women and children are driven upon the street, dying from cold and hunger. Whole cities are being devastated.

My brain grows dizzy, and I close my eyes to the awful scene of carnage, while another vision fills my mind. I see the pampered pets of society surrounded by all that is beautiful. I attend their banquets, I see their parties, given on lantern-lighted lawns, their many colored dresses mingling with the gay lights, while their souls are soothed by the soft playing orchestra. I see their idle lives being wasted in the pursuit of pleasure.

And I realise that these are the people who are the indirect cause of all the agony and suffering of the battlefields.

My head grows hot, my brain refuses to act, and I inwardly cry: Good God, is this what men call civilization?

decided to support the Government in its efforts, and not to consider the directors' demand for 100 per cent, payment.

We have already delivered textiles in the value of three million roubles.

"Thus, Comrades, the workingmen have laid the foundations for the control and development of industry, now and in the future. All that is now necessary for the workers is to forge ahead, developing still more self-reliance, and thereby avoiding the snares and capitalist intrigue. No longer are we mere pawns and puppets of capitalism!"

As we see from this report, the "intelligentsia" were not elected, and the capitalist directors cleared out for England, leaving the poor unfortunate producers severely alone, without Industrial Captains or Bosses to lord it over them: Yet the Workingmen Commissioner does not complain at any workmen's disorders, disagreements or strikes; he does not consider himself either director or manager; he is just a comrade worker—that is all. How other could he describe himself?

"After a period of from three to six months someone else may be elected in his place. Certainly! Then he will go back to his previous occupation, be it spinner or engineer. He is not a director; he is only a member of the controlling Commission, elected by his fellow-workers.

"And the DIRECTING (?) ABILITY went to England. Poor 6,000 workmen! How will they ever get along without them?"

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The Population Question

By F. SUTHERLAND.

In my last letter I tried to forecast some
of the changes which would result in sex re-
lations from the adoption of Socialism. Closely
related to the sex question is the question of
population. Preaching in Edinburgh many
years ago, a Unitarian minister said he be-
lieved the only real objection to Socialism
was the Malthusian theory of population.

Mr. Malthus (whom Marx called a notorious
plagiarist) taught that all life had a tendency
to increase far beyond the increase in the
food supply. Food, he said, could be produced
increasingly only in an arithmetical ratio;
but population increased in a geometrical
ratio. In the human race three factors tended
to keep the pressure of population within
check, viz., war, famine, and pestilence. In
more civilised periods moral restraint and
preventive precautions had to some extent
superseded the three first mentioned factors.

In reply to this feasible theory, it has been
pointed out that an increase in the standard
of comfort results in small families. This
can be seen in the fact that almost invariably
in the residence sections of the wealthy in a
city, the families are small, but the poorer the
locality the more numerous the children. It
is therefore concluded that if the standard of
comfort were raised all round, population
would not only not show an increase, but might
actually decline. The same is true even in
the animal world—stock that are highly fed
are not as fertile as those poorly fed, or those
leading a wild and precarious life.

It is even urged that in the future the diffi-
culty will be to keep population from declin-
ing instead of studying means to check its too
rapid increase. It is computed that the well-
to-do native born Americans, actually are,
through having such small families or in many
cases no families, on the decline; and that the
tremendous increase in the population of the
United States is due solely to the large in-
crease in immigration, and the big families of
the poor and even the very poor. In almost
every civilised country the birth-rate shows
a decline.

But, however Socialism will affect popula-
tion this much is certain, and it effectually
removes any fear of a disturbing and calami-
tous increase in population, and that is that
preventive means are in existence whose use
is harmless and which will if desired prevent
an undesired increase. Another factor of no
small import will be the economic independ-
ence of woman. No longer relying for sup-
port on her husband, she will decide whe-
ther there will be any family, and if so, how
many.

Some persons allege that if left to women
families would become too small. They take
their cue from the example of the females of

Slams and Jabs.

By JAYBES.

Under glaring headlines we see the
following:—

"Tank week in Shanghai meets liberal
response." A Chinese Tank Week was
held, and Chinese subscribed £119,100,
which was a gratifying testimony to the
Chinese good feeling for Britain."

The only thing the gathering of this
money DOES demonstrate is that, John
Chinaman capitalist has a keen eye to
business and found what looked like a
safe investment of his ill gotten gains at
5 or 6 per cent. interest. The white
man thinks the almond eyed fellow "no
savee," but when it comes to investing
in war bonds at a big percentage he is
just as much of a patriot as his fellow
skinner in Australia.

German gold seems to be as plentiful
as Australian wheat. Everyone who is
opposed to the ravishes of capitalism has,
at some time or other, been the recipient
of a large or small amount. The I.W.W.
received several tons of it before the in-
famous trial, the Bolsheviks are now
opening its coffers to receive its allotted
share. Joffe, the Bolshevik Consul in
Berlin must have his trunk full by this
time, and at any time we may receive
ours. Oh, you lying press!

When Shakespeare wrote the follow-
ing four lines he must have foreseen the
Australian Labor Party politician.
I can smile, and murder while I smile;
And cry content to that which grieves my
heart;
And wet my cheeks with artificial tears;
And frame my face to all occasions.
It's a pen picture of A.L.P. ilk.

One of the dinkum Anzaes writing
from England after having spent some
time in Turkey as a prisoner of war has
this to say which hardly pair with the
terrible tales we have read about Fritz.
It appeared in the Melbourne "Herald,"
15/6/18.

"When I regained consciousness a Ger-
man doctor was treating my wounds skil-
fully, and said I would recover without
losing my leg." It appears that the
aforesaid German doctor was called away
and one of the Turk quacks sawed his
leg off and didn't properly dress it,
which necessitated six operations, leaving
just a stump. This Anzac (Pat O'Con-
nor) ends up by telling us that "The
only good treatment we received was
from the Germans we met." So it would
seem that the humanity of Germ(Hun)
is quite on a par with the humanity of
the average Austral(Hun). Oh, press!
you brazen liar!

We have proven times without number
that the daily press is the harlot of capi-
talism. We have shown in a hundred
different ways that its function is to
"laud the filthy false and call it truth." Our
class has been the victims of this
slandrous medium of creating public
opinion, through it our fellow workers
have been incited to the Australian
battles of capitalism; our mates have
been fooled into taking sides with our op-
pressors, and still some deluded wage
slave, one of the units we need for the
coming social revolution, accepts as
"gospel" all that covers the insidious
pages of plutocracy's press.

It is not often we see a man honest
enough to condemn himself and the hire-
lings of Mammon when he himself be-
longed to that fraternity. I have been
requested to send the following to the
columns of the "International Social-

the parasitic class, whose lives are spent in
a senseless whirl of senseless and often ques-
tionable pleasures. But the normal woman
who leads a useful life loves children; in fact
no woman is really normal who does not. Op-
portunately enough there has been discovered
what is called the "Twilight Sleep," which
has robbed childbirth of its dangers and most
of its pains. Thus we see that the increase
or the decrease of population is entirely in-
side the province of regulation, and is equally
removed from the vagaries of mysticism or
the fears inspired by Malthusianism. But
much depends on the emancipation of woman,
which, however, cannot be successfully accom-
plished until the working-class as a whole is
emancipated. The emancipation of the vast
majority of the race depends on the abolition
of exploitation and the establishment of
Socialism.

Random Shots.

By L.P.G. and E.S.H.

I have been pointing out the very cur-
ious policy adopted by our conservative
friends, and in this connection there is
an historic fact that is worth remember-
ing. It is that you can always get a
renegade to do work of this character
than any man belonging to a party with
which he has been associated all his life.

From the days of the infamous Earl of
Strafford to the present time when there
has been anything to do interfering with
the liberty of people—dirty work of any
kind to be done—a renegade has always
been prepared to do it better than any
on else.

—Hansard, 26th Dec., 1918, page
1540, Mr. Archibald, Member for Hind-
marsh.

History repeats itself. Archibald re-
ferred at that time to Joseph Cook. We
would commend the paragraph to the
earnest consideration of Hughes, Russell,
Archibald, Pearce, and their ilk. History
is indeed repeating itself again in the
actions of the political frauds, who pose
as Labor's saviors, and are at present
under the leadership of the weak-kneed
Tudor.

ist" by several who have read it, in the
hope that it may be cut out and pasted in
the scrap book of every reader.

Mr. John Swinton, at a banquet of
newspaper men in New York City, in re-
sponse to a toast on "The Independent
Press," said:—

"There is no such thing in America
as an independent press, unless it is in
the country towns.

"You know it, and I know it. There
is not one of you who dares to write his
honest opinion, and, if you did, you
know beforehand that it would never ap-
pear in print.

"I am paid 150 dollars a week for
keeping my honest opinions out of the
paper I am connected with—others of
you are paid similar salaries for similar
things—and any one of you who would
be so foolish as to write his honest opin-
ions would be out on the streets looking
for another job.

"The business of the New York jour-
nalist is to destroy the truth, to lie out-
right, to vilify, to fawn at the feet of
Mammon, and to sell his race and coun-
try for his daily bread.

"You know this, and I know it, and
what folly is this to be toasting an 'In-
dependent Press.'

"We are tools and vassals of rich men
behind the scenes. We are the jumping
jacks; they pull the strings and we
dance. Our talents, our possibilities, and
our lives are all the property of other
men.

"We are intellectual prostitutes."
The above speech originally appeared
in the official organ of the American
S.L.P.—"The Weekly People," and was
reprinted in the Glasgow "Socialist,"
September, 1916.

"One big union." Every unionist you
meet now-a-days has it in his mind, and
on that account we find plenty misleaders
who pretend to be propagating the "One
Great Union" plan, when in reality they
are only advanced craft unionists who
see the trend of things and are attempt-
ing to get in, and forestall the real move-
ment that knows what it wants and
knows how to go about getting it. If
you are sincere about "ONE GREAT UN-
ION" link up with the revolutionary
organisation now in existence the Work-
ers' International Industrial Union; read
the preamble and ask the misleaders if
that is the brand of unionism they are
out for. The stronger the forces of the
outside revolutionary union the more will
you force the craft unions to step into
place. The only boring from within you
can possibly do is to place the true po-
sition and prevent your class from being
bogged by the traitors within its ranks.

The history of those who have "bored
from within" has been pretty much the
same; it's a case of boring in, through,
round and back again, and finally you
find that you have bored yourself right
out. Hammer all you can inside, but link
up to-day with the class conscious move-
ment outside, for the "outside" will
very soon be the inside.

A fact that stands out in flaming prom-
inence before all eyes is that the present
unprecedented horrors are not for...
the vindication of any great human
rights, but for class maintenance and the
lust of conquest."—"Age," March 4th,
1916.

"We must kill that hope which still
buoyed Germany up, and so arrange that
after the war Germany would be unable
to win back her old position in commerce
and industry."—W. M. Hughes, "Age,"
March 22, 1916.

"He considered the struggle for com-
mercial supremacy to be one of the pri-
mary causes of the war."—W. M. Hughes,
"Age," 20th Jan., 1916.

"They heard a great deal about the
cause of the war, that it was a question
of the rights of the smaller nations, but,
as a matter of fact, it was simply a sor-
did trade war."—Dr. Mannix, Jan. 29,
1917.

After digesting the above cuttings one
should hear no more of War for Lib-
erty, Rights of Smaller Nations.

Prof. Atkinson in a recent lecture dealt
with a "League of Nations," "Internation-
al Arbitration Courts," etc. He also
criticised modern diplomacy as being a
primary cause of war. Now there are a
great many people carried away with the
fallacy of "International Arbitration,"
to prevent war. We hold no brief for
secret diplomacy, but open diplomacy
will not prevent war. Reviewed briefly,
the case may be stated thus: Modern na-
tions require foreign markets, colonial
expansion, and Imperial domination of
"backward" countries. As each na-
tion's capitalists follow this policy they
find their interests clashing. And this is
the purpose diplomats serve, i.e., to
try and arrange matters without war. As
the capitalist class of each nation must
have expansion they arrive at the climax.
Either one or the other must relinquish
some economic concession or war.
Groups of nations may combine—but this
leads to what we see to-day—group fac-
ing group.

To advocate electing representatives to
International Courts is a farce. What
else is Earl Grey but a representative to
watch British capitals interests. The
only difference is that he would be elect-
ed instead of appointed. Tweedledee
and Tweedledum. All the peace schemes
quoted above are moonshine. While the
capitalist system lasts by the production
of surplus value there is the inevitable
tendency to create war. No person who
recognised the economic cause of wars,
can logically advocate political trumpery
to abolish it. Prof. Atkinson outlined
the economic causes of the present war,
and yet thinks of abolishing all wars with-
out touching capitalist production, the
mother of modern wars.

The way to abolish war is to organise
into industrial unions, to take over the
means of production, to run them for
use and not for profit, thus abolishing the
production of surplus value—i.e., that
huge surplus which the capitalist class
struggle to find markets for, and in the
form of capital, to find profitable invest-
ment for.

This is a war to end war."—Lloyd
George.

Evidently "big biz" hasn't any such
delusion, and what "Big Biz" says al-
ways stands with modern governments.

From the "Age" we quote the follow-
ing:—

ARMAMENT FIRMS COMBINE.
London, 10th June.

It is reported that a huge combine of
armament and munition firms has been
completed, with a capital aggregating be-
tween £20,000,000 and £30,000,000, to
compete in the post-war struggle.

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In reply to certain statements originated
through "Solidarity," the Committee desires
it to be published that no person or persons
on the Committee have at any time received
compensation for their services.

All work on the Committee being volun-
tary, the dependents receive the total amount
contributed.

WYATT JONES, Hon. Sec.

The Russian Revolution.

A Review and a Retrospect.

Compiled by J. A. D., W. H., J. B. S.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE.)

On Feb. 10, Russia, as represented by the Bolsheviki Government, formally withdrew from the war, though refusing to sign a treaty of peace.

The official announcement by the Bolsheviki, sounding the clear note of Internationalism was as follows:—

"The peace negotiations are at an end. The German capitalists, bankers, and landlords, supported by the silent co-operation of the English and French bourgeoisie, submitted to our comrades, members of the peace delegations at Brest-Litovsk, conditions such as could not be subscribed to by the Russian Revolution.

"The Governments of Germany and Austria possess countries and peoples vanquished by force of arms. To this authority the Russian people, workmen and peasants, could not give its acquiescence. We could not sign a peace which would bring with it sadness, oppression, and suffering to millions of workmen and peasants.

"But we also cannot, will not, and must not continue a war begun by Czars and capitalists, in alliance with Czarism and capitalists. We will not and must not continue to be at war with the Germans and Austrians—workmen and peasants like ourselves.

"We are not signing a peace of landlords and capitalists. Let the German and Austrian soldiers know who are placing them in the field of battle, and let them know for what they are struggling. Let them know also that we refuse to fight against them.

"Our delegation, fully conscious of its responsibility, before the Russian people, and the oppressed workers and peasants of other countries, declared on Feb. 10, in the name of the Council of the People's Commissaries of the Government of the Federal Russian Republic, to the Governments of the peoples involved in the war with us and of the neutral countries, that it refused to sign an annexationist treaty. Russia, for its part, declares that the present war with Germany and Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria at an end.

"Simultaneously, the Russian troops received an order for complete demobilisation on all fronts."

The signatures of Trotsky and other comrades of the delegation are appended.

An order was issued to the troops as follows:—

"No military operations must again take place. The beginning of a general demobilisation on all fronts is decreed. I order the issue of instructions on the front for the withdrawal of the troops from the first lines, and for their concentration in the rear, and, further, for their dispatch to the interior of Russia, in accordance with the general plan for demobilisation. For the defence of the frontier some detachments of younger soldiers must be left.

"I beg our soldier comrades to remain calm and await with patience the moment of the return of each detachment to its home in its turn. I beg that no effort be spared to bring into the stores all artillery and other military equipment which cost millions of the people's money.

"Remember that only systematic demobilisation can be carried out in the shortest time, and that systematic demobilisation alone can prevent interference with the sending of food supplies to those detachments which remain for a certain period at the front."

Comments of leading German newspapers indicated a doubt as to whether peace would be established. When the news of peace on the eastern front was made known it created great enthusiasm throughout Germany and Austria. The "Berliner Tageblatt's" comment was:

"We have peace with Russia, because there is no Russian army, but it is a peace devoid of any solid basis, and with-

out agreement. The quadruple alliance must now, as hitherto, strive after a definite settlement in eastern affairs, which will facilitate the establishment of peaceful and neighbourly relations with the Russian people."

The "Lokal Anzeiger" declared that the rejoicings were premature.

M. Kamenoff, Russian delegate, announced at Stockholm that Russia's action had been decided upon previously by the Soviet Congress. He added: "By our decision we have not given a finger to Germany. We have not signed anything. We have not recognised the German principles. Thus, we have a free hand to set forth anew our principles at a general peace conference."

The following may be regarded as an attempt, based on authentic information, to contribute to the knowledge of the secret history of the Conference at Brest-Litovsk. It appeared in the "Manchester Guardian," and is in line with information we have from other sources.

"Among the Bolsheviki there were three schools of opinion with regard to the peace negotiations. There was, first, the party of Lenin. As an intense realist, in spite of his fanatical devotion to Socialism, he argued that Russia was no longer physically able to continue the fight, much as she might morally be eager to do it. On the other hand, neither in Germany, nor in any other Western country was there likely, in spite of various symptoms, to be a revolution in time to save Russia from a humiliating peace. As the Socialist Republic in Russia was the most valuable thing to him, both for its own sake and as a source of revolutionary fermentation throughout the world, Lenin was in favor of making peace with Germany at Brest, without any protracted discussion, on any terms she might offer short of the destruction of the Socialist Republic itself.

"Against him were Radek and his school. Radek, an ardent revolutionary, was in favor, should the German terms fall short of the Russian peace formula, of renewing the struggle by means of a "revolutionary" army of volunteers (in the place of the old army disbanded), in the firm hope that the German troops would not fight Socialist Russia and would break out in a revolutionary mutiny.

"Lenin's proposal was humiliating; Radek's seemed too risky; and between the two the bulk of the Central Executive of the Soviets did not know which way to go. Trotsky saved the situation by a "synthetic" solution. Russia cannot fight; hence peace must be signed at Brest. But a German revolution is possible; hence every effort must be made during and through the negotiations to arouse the German people by exposing the rapacious war aims of their diplomats and generals, and by protracting the conversations as long as possible. Only in the last resort, when the Germans, grown weary of or angry at the Russian game, should put a pistol to their breasts, demanding a clear answer yes or no, should peace be signed.

"Trotsky's 'synthetic' solution as is usual in such cases, was adopted by the majority with great eagerness; it seemed both practicable and in accord with revolutionary principles. Lenin, who if he had wanted to make use of his immense authority might have defeated Trotsky's proposal, gave in, and merely remarked prophetically: 'I am afraid my reluctance to break with Trotsky may cost us Pskoff.'"

"We know how Trotsky carried out his plan by means of philosophic arguments with Herr von Kuhlmann on the origin of State or on the meaning of self-determination, and by constantly adjourning the proceedings on the pretext of having to return to Petrograd on political businesses. When he was going for the last time to Brest, Lenin cautioned him not to protract the dangerous game, as the Germans were obviously becoming restless, and Trotsky agreed that this time peace would have to be signed. But on coming there and being cheered by the strike movement in the Central Empires,

CANADA.

A report from Quebec dated March 31, reads: Troopers charge Quebec rioters. Big mob of anti-conscriptionists dispersed by calvary. Several killed and many wounded. Rioters raid hardware stores in search of arms. Machine guns awe crowds. The crowd is working in bands of 1,000 each, and apparently under some system of direction. Determined upon releasing conscription evaders. The Auditorium was burned down on Friday night, March 29, to destroy the records of the Registrar or the Military Service Act, but all the more important records had been removed from the Registrar's office to a fireproof safe some days before. The word had been passed round, "Come and see the fun at the Auditorium to-night," and thousands of Quebec residents came to witness the riot. It was not until the riot was in full swing that Mayor Lavigneur got a copy of the Riot Act, hunted up Justices of the Peace to sign it, and proceeded in his motor to the Auditorium, where the building having been destroyed, he saved the document, but did not read it.

There is a large section of the population of Quebec City that is not only hostile to conscription, but also is antagonistic to French-Canada taking any part in the war. The difficulty facing the Federal Authorities is obvious—they have to enforce a law in a hostile community, which is doing everything in its power to render the law inoperative.

U.S.A.

A mob at Collinsville, a town of 5000 people in Southern Illinois, on April 4, lynched one Prager, a registered enemy alien, after allowing him an opportunity to pray three minutes for his soul. Then his body was hauled ten feet into the air, and left hanging. The abhorrent deed is described as a manifestation of loyalty to the Government.

SABOTAGE BILL.

Washington, April 4.

Penalties of 30 years' imprisonment, and 10,000 dollars fine were provided in the Bill for acts of sabotage. A special clause provides that employees shall not be prohibited from agreeing to stop work when for the bona fide purpose of obtaining better wages or con-

ditions of employment, but otherwise penalises acts interfering with production.

I.W.W. HEADQUARTERS RAIDED.

Spokane, Wash., April 5. Police raided the headquarters of the Lumber Workers and Agricultural Workers' Union of the Industrial Workers of the World here to-day, took 50 men to police headquarters, and seized all books and literature in the rooms. No charges were preferred against the men. Chief of Police Weir announced that the headquarters of the I.W.W. would not be permitted to re-open except on a court order.

The raids were made after negotiations for State action with Governor Lister (called here early this week to investigate the situation) had failed. Many surrounding towns had complained that Spokane permitted the I.W.W. to conduct strikes in their vicinity from the Spokane headquarters.—"N.Y. Times."

RUSSIA.

"The kaleidoscope of events in Russia shows the Bolsheviki capturing Kherson from a German investing force of 500, the Ukrainians making overtures to the Bolsheviki Government for an alliance, rebellious. Votes in Minsk cutting telephone lines of communication with German bases, and the Soviet at Moscow planning the raising of a regular army to renew the war with the Germans. Leon Trotsky realises that as a defence force the Red Guards are 'helpless against disciplined troops.' He now sees that officers cannot be improvised. Accordingly he has urged the Soviet to authorise the organisation of a regular army. 'We need,' he says, 'a strong army to defend ourselves in this critical world position.'—"N.Y. Times," 1st April, 1918.

RUSSIA FORMS RED ARMY OF 1,500,000 MEN.

Moscow, April 2.

Russia will form a Red Army of 1,500,000 men, not inferior in power and equipment to the Germans and Japanese. M. Podvoisky, Assistant Secretary of War, declared to-day, after a conference in Moscow of the various military department heads. This will be the first step in arming the whole Russian people. He said hundreds of thousands of recruits were coming forward. The great handicap was lack of instructors, hence he outlined a measure to enlist the services of all Generals, and publish their names, giving to citizens the right to state objections to anyone.—Associated Press.

REDS WANT ALLIES TO CHECK COSSACKS.

Moscow, April 1.

Captain Webster, of American Red Cross, and Captain W. L. Hicks, of the British Military Mission, attended a meeting of the Central Siberian Soviet at Irkutsk. They were assured that only 1,200 Austrian prisoners of Siberia had been armed and enlisted in the Red Guards, and that all these men were Socialists.

The United States and Great Britain were requested by the Soviet to permit free exportation of farming machinery into Siberia. The Soviet officials also asked the assistance of the Allies in checking Cossack raids across the Manchurian border, saying that they were unwilling to follow the Cossacks into Chinese territory, but were quite able to defeat General Semenov and his followers, if they were prevented from escaping to Chinese soil.

A foreign trade and finance commission of nine members, who include N. Lenin, M. Radek, and N. Larin, has been appointed to frame legislation for the establishment of a Soviet monopoly in foreign trade and generally to deal with all matters pertaining to economic relations with the United States, Germany, the Ukraine and other countries. The electrification of Petrograd and Moscow has already been commenced by the Bolsheviki.

London, April 4.

Arthur Ransome, correspondent at Moscow, states that "American is prepared to trade with Russia on the Russian terms. Germany, of course, will find it advantageous to do the same. If we allow ourselves to be prevented by the Russian annulment of loans, we risk throwing sovereigns after pennies. Russia has not ceased to exist as a factor in the world." It is reported that the Russian Government is sending a delegation to the United States to liquidate Russia's war orders with American firms and average future trade relations.

FRANCE OPPOSES AIDING BOLSHEVIKI.

The "Journal des Debats" in to-day's issue, says: "Unhappily they may have strange illusions in the United States. Washington still continues conversations with the Bolsheviki. . . . To bother about the reconstruction of

Continued on page 4.

(To be continued next Issue.)

INTERNATIONAL NOTES AND NEWS.

Continued from Page 3.

Russia at this moment would be a crime. After the war, and according to the results of the war, the question may be considered. Also, don't let us send goods of any kind into Russia in order to preserve commercial relations. The best service the United States can render is to facilitate Japanese penetration of Siberia."

BRITISH PRESS ANTAGONISTIC TO RUSSIAN DEMOCRACY.

The "Daily Chronicle" of April 3, repeating stories of armed prisoners, urges action against the Bolsheviks.

London, 17th June.

M. Jules d'Estour, formerly Belgian Minister at Petrograd, made the following statement in an interview: "There are 20,000 armed German prisoners of war in Siberia, ostensibly under the Bolsheviks."

Published in "The Times."

JAPANESE IMPERIALISM ACTIVE.

London, 17th June.

A newspaper correspondent in Tokio states that Japan intends to increase her army to 25 divisions (15 divisions at present total 42,000). He adds that the Entente Governments are urging Japanese intervention in Russia, and that a council meeting has been held on the subject, at which Allied representatives were present.

MORE MENSHEVIK TREACHERY.

London, 18th June.

A Russian wireless report states that the All-Russian Central Executive Committee passed a resolution on the 14th inst., declaring it is being attacked by International Imperialism, and its conductors in Russia, on all fronts; therefore it expects from the committee the representatives of the Revolutionary Socialists of the Centre and Right, and the Mensheviks, and recommends their expulsion from the local Soviets, because they have participated in organising armed revolt in conjunction with General Kaledin and Korniloff in the Don, General Dutov in the Ural, other Generals in Siberia, and lately the Czech-Slovaks.

Earlier messages stated that an organisation of Blue Guards had been discovered in Moscow.

SINGLE WOMEN AFTER THE WAR.

A writer in the "Manchester Guardian" says: "I am told, on good authority, that in Germany the problem of single women who will inevitably be left without husbands after the war, owing to the fearful mortality of men, has already been the subject of much thought and public discussion, and that, with that frightful thoroughness for which they are famous, the Germans are already recommending what are called 'visiting husbands.' That a man should have several wives in one house is recognised as being degrading for the women and dangerous for family life. That a man who can afford it (they won't be wage-workers) should maintain several homes, with a wife in each, and visit them all in turn, apparently presents to certain types of minds in Germany no difficulty. Rather it is regarded, if my informants are correct, as a fine way of serving the Fatherland. . . . I can assure my readers that yet more revolutionary (?) ideas on sex matters are being discussed and put forward in all seriousness in certain quarters in England."—9/4/18.

The Workers' International Industrial Union.

**PREAMBLE.**

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people, and the few who made up the employing class have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the toilers come together on the political field under the banner of a distinct revolutionary political party governed by the workers class interests, and on the industrial field under the banner of One Great Industrial Union to take and hold all means of production and distribution, and to run them for the benefit of all wealth producers.

The rapid gathering of wealth and the concentrating of the management of industries into fewer hands make the trades union unable to cope with the evergrowing power of the employing class, because the trades unions foster a state of things which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. The trades unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These sad conditions must be changed, the interests of the working-class upheld, and while the capitalist rule still prevails all possible relief for the workers must be secured. That can only be done by an organisation aiming steadily at the complete overthrow of the capitalist wage system, and formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries, if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lock-out is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

For further information write to the—
**GENERAL SEC. TREASURER, W.L.U.,
HATTE'S ARCADE, KING ST., NEW-
TOWN, SYDNEY, N.S.W.**

Austrian Strikes.

GREAT SIGNS OF REVOLUTION.

In the latest European papers to hand we now have fuller details of the beginning of the great strike movement in Austria. The power behind this movement was the party of "Maximalists," that is, the real International Industrial Socialists (not the Social Democratic leaders), which in its weekly publication, "Der Kampf," and its martyr, Friedrich Adler, possesses a growing means of propaganda. Its leader, Otto Bauer, was behind the strike at Wiener Neustadt, and then set the avalanche rolling.

What brought the anger and discontent of the masses to a head was the delay in the negotiations at Brest-Litovsk, the general impression in Vienna, extending far beyond the labor masses, that General Hoffmann's speech endangered the conclusion of peace, and the sudden reduction of the bread ration by one-half. When, however, the people marched through the streets they called not for bread but for peace.

No songs were heard and no banners were seen at the demonstrations, only threats, gambles, and demands. The threats, grumbles, and demands. The newspapers published for over three days, the only issue being a sheet published by the "Arbeiter Zeitung" ("Workers' Gazette") which contained nothing but announcements regarding the strike and peace. Throughout Labor maintained exemplary discipline. This is a feature that makes them still more serious, for it indicates organisation and self-control and discipline.

The "Neue Freie Presse" (Vienna) in an issue before the strikes reached their height contained the following:—

"As a protest against flour rations being reduced one half throughout Austria 10,000 workmen struck at Wiener Neustadt, including employees of Daimler automobile factory, the Roth ammunition works, and other locomotive and aeroplane factories."

Similar strikes occurred at St. Pölten and Neunkirchen, but the censor suppressed all reports. The Austrian population is intensely excited. The public anger is especially against the supporters of the war. Crowds assembled in the main thoroughfares in Vienna, took up positions on the tramway lines and blocked all traffic.

The crowd attacked the offices of the Clerical and Germanophile "Reichspost," smashing its windows and howling "Down with the war fiends!" The strike movement extended to Trieste, and demonstrations took place in Cracow, where a procession, headed by the Archbishop, went to the Governor's palace and demanded bread.

A strike was declared also in many towns of Bohemia, Silesia, Styria, and Corinthia. At Graz and Klagenfurt all the factories are closed. Strikes were also announced in Galicia, and violent encounters took place between the police and the crowds in Cracow.

200,000 people took part in a peace demonstration at Budapest. There were cries of "Down with the war!" "Hurrah for the Russian Revolution!" and demands for a great general strike.

All parties in Austria are anxious to exercise all possible pressure on the German Government.

Dr. Adler (Socialist) said (in the Lower House of the Reichsrath) on Jan. 18: "We to-day find before us the possibility of peace. Peace must not be delayed by considerations of prestige or by questions of future plans. We see now that negotiations are being conducted in a tone and manner of which we must say that peace is not to be made in such a way. It would mean a mistaken estimate of the Russians, Czechs, and the entire world situation.

"Without warning, without signal from the Social Democratic Party, the idea has suddenly sprung up among the masses of the people that if this hope vanishes, and there is nothing to eat, we have nothing else to lose. This is the feeling among the people. We must silently look on and watch a couple of gentlemen at Brest, perhaps pursuing the policy of someone else, and thereby risking the fate of the peace negotiations. We cannot tolerate that deputies should be kept in ignorance and be compelled to learn from the newspapers how a general beats the table and rattles the sword, and how peace is being endangered.

"We want a general peace. We want

A. S. P.

NEWS AND NOTES.**CORRIMAL BRANCH.**

Matters in connection with this branch are going along smoothly. We have increased the subscribers to the "I.S." slightly; also an increase in membership. This shows that the propaganda meetings that have been held on the Coast are now reaping the reward. Much work remains to be done yet.

We are at a disadvantage through not having local speakers, but hope to be able to have some in the near future. We look forward to the class-conscious workers in and around Thirroul linking up with an organisation which stands for Industrial Socialism, with the overthrow of the Capitalist Wage-System as a goal. Workers, unite! Away with the reform dopers!

Once again the Craft Union Officials have shown their cards by recommending to the miners of this district (Berby's) Arbitration Bill, and as far as I can learn it has been accepted. The northern end of the district put up very strong opposition.

The majority of the workers seem to lose sight of the fact that Arbitration will only give them what the strength of their organisation is able to force from the Capitalist Class.

We are considering the advisability of organising a meeting at Sanwell Park, where I am told a large number of workers are engaged on the deviation works, "I.S." arriving safely the last two issues. It will require more than the loss of a bundle of papers to put us out of action.

E. BROWNE, Sec.

"THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST."

Does the "I.S." suit you? Do you think it is doing good work. Do you wish to see the good work continue. If so, show your appreciation and assist by getting subscribers, also donations to our Press Fund.

it unconditionally. We are not fighting for the annexation of a kingdom. The Social Democrats would certainly be in favor of the annexation of Cracow by Warsaw, but not of Warsaw by Cracow."

On Jan. 22, Herr Hoffmann (Independent Socialist), in the Prussian Lower House, said:

"The writing on the wall in Austria should serve as a warning that you are dancing on a volcano. (Commotion.) Even Scheideemann (Majority Socialist in the Reichstag) has threatened you with opposition. We are as they are in Austria—within ten minutes of a catastrophe. (Uproar.) The people have had enough of being goaded into war."

Herr Hoffmann was called to order by the Vice-President, but intervening later in the debate he said, "If you do not follow our advice the responsibility falls on you for everything that happens. We warn you at the twelfth hour."

AUSTRIAN NAVAL MUTINY.

London, 13th May.

Further reports concerning the recent mutiny in the Austrian navy show that trouble occurred almost simultaneously at Pola and Cattaro. It is likely that the two risings were preconcerted. The workmen at Pola struck, demanding mitigation of sentences, and various officers and the crews of numerous ships joined in. The authorities yielded, granting all of the demands.

The rising at Cattaro took a more serious course. Members of the crews of six cruisers and a number of destroyers declared for a revolution. The German element, however, refused to participate, and collisions occurred which resulted in bloodshed. Eventually the mutineers seized the port, arrested the admiral and officers, and occupied the wireless station, from which they telegraphed their demands to the authorities at Vienna. The authorities replied evasively, while they ordered a naval division to proceed to Cattaro.

The mutineers opened negotiations, and eventually they surrendered with a promise by the Government that they should not be punished. The authorities dismissed several high officers on the ground of lack of firmness, and a new admiral with a reputation for severity was appointed.

SOCIALIST HALL

369 Pitt Street.

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING, DANCE.

LECTURE EVERY SUNDAY EVENING

TO UNATTACHED SUPPORTERS

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For further information, drop a line to the General Secretary, A.S.P., 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Any branch desiring matter published under the above heading, should write clearly what is needed, and forward same to this office.

BROKEN HILL.

Socialist Hall, Sulphide St.

All rebels making their way to the "Hill" will receive a welcome at the above address. Good Library for Members.

ECONOMIC CLASS HELD EVERY THURSDAY EVENING.

CORRIMAL.

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P. STALKER, Secretary.

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Library for members.

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Debating class held every Monday evening.

Business meeting every alternate Thursday evening.

Dance every Friday evening.

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(Australian Administration)
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47 VICTORIA ST., MELBOURNE.

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